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BABYLON 5
IN VALEN'S NAME
PART TWO OF THREE
BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI,
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AND DAVID ROACH
DIRECT SALES
OBI
BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES BABYLON 5 CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

RAMDE HAKTOR... A PROBLEM HAS ARISEN THAT MAY REQUIRE OUR ABANDONING OUR CURRENT SALVAGE MISSION OF THE PARMEL SHIPS.
WHAT SORT OF PROBLEM?
5
AUTO TRANSLATION OF TARTCHA ENGAGED
WE HAVE LOST CONTACT WITH THE TEAM WE LEFT BEHIND ON ENDE XTON... ON THE LOST STATION.
BUT THEIR LAST REPORTS STATED THEY MET WITH... INTERFERENCE.
WHAT SORT OF "INTERFERENCE"?
UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME, BUT FROM PRELIMINARY REPORTS...
WE FEAR THEY ENCOUNTERED SAVAGES... AND THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE LOST.

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BLAST IT.
THE CAPACITY FOR VIOLENCE IN THIS GALAXY NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE ME.
BY ALL MEANS, WE MUST PRIORITIZE. IF OUR TEAM IS TRULY LOST, WE CANNOT LET THEIR KILLERS GET AWAY.
RECALL OUR SALVAGE TEAM IMMEDIATELY, AND SET COURSE FOR THE LOST STATION.
AND WHAT OF THE DAMMEL SHIP ITSELF? THERE ARE STILL HURT AND INJURED DAMMEL ABOARD WHO CANNOT BE MOVED. IF WE LEAVE NOW...
THEY WILL SHORTLY DIE.
UNLIKE SOME OTHERS, WE ARE NOT SAVAGES. AND TO LEAVE THEM IN SUCH A HELPLESS STATE WOULD BE TRAGIC AND BARBARIC.
AS YOU SAY, ARMDE.
MERCY KILLING. ONLY THING FOR IT.

THE TEACHINGS OF THE ZONDAR WOULD AGREE, DO YOU NOT THINK SO?
ONCE AGAIN, RAMDE, IT IS... AS YOU SAY.
COMPASSION IS THE GREATEST GIFT THAT ONE CAN GIVE. NEVER FORGET THAT.
NEVER, RAMDE. NEVER.
NOW... LET'S TEACH THOSE SAVAGES A LESSON.

IN VALEN'S NAME
BOOK TWO
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BOOM TODAY, BOOM TOMORROW.
THE SILENCE IS SURPRISING. AS WE BLOW UP IN FLAMES, HITTING THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE MORE NOISE THAN THAT. SCREAMS OF THE DYING, AND THE SOUNDS OF METAL TWISTING. THE HULL RUPTURING...
BUT IT'S ALL SO QUIET. LIKE OUR DEATHS MEAN NOTHING. BUT SHOULD INSTEAD BE UNREMARKED UPON. WITHOUT SO MUCH AS EVEN A SQUAD.
BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES BABYLON 5 CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

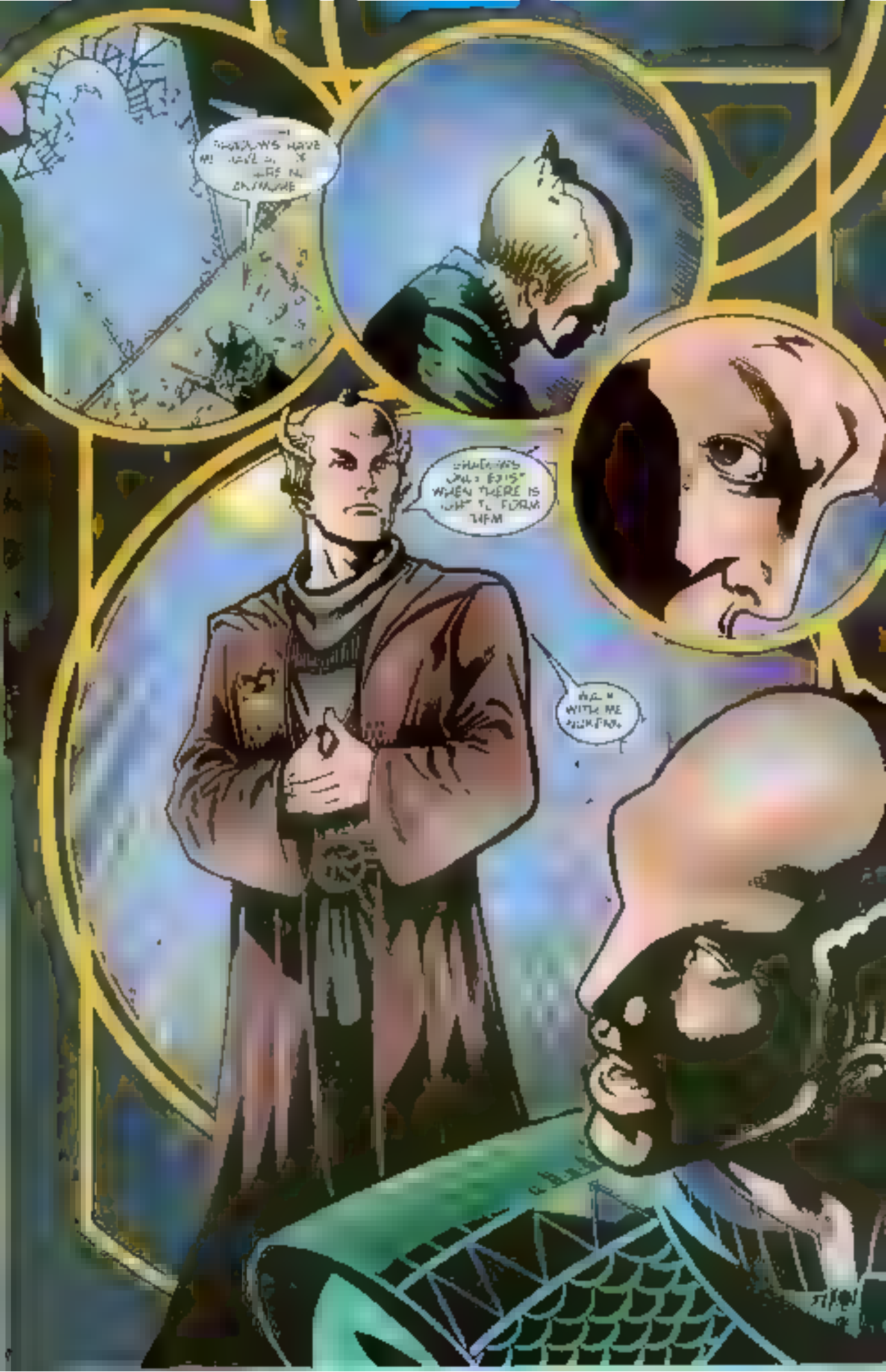
THE PROBLEM WITH DEATH IS, THERE'S NO HIGHER COURT TO WHICH YOU CAN APPEAL THE SENTENCE.
WELL... THERE IS, I GUESS... BUT ONCE YOU GET THERE...
...IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO FILE AN APPEAL.
5
HUNNH?!
COMMANDER?
SUSAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M... FINE, YES, THANKS. I WAS JUST DOZING A MOMENT...
DOZING? WE'RE ON A SPACE STATION THAT'S GOING TO CRASH IN LESS THAN TWENTY HOURS, AND I'M CATCHING FORTY WINKS?
WOULD YOU RATHER BE PANICKING?
NO, I'D RATHER BE IN THE BAHAMAS. BUT SINCE I'M HERE, I'D LIKE TO AT LEAST STAY A LITTLE FOCUSED. YOU'D THINK I'D BE USED TO FUNCTIONING ON NO SLEEP.

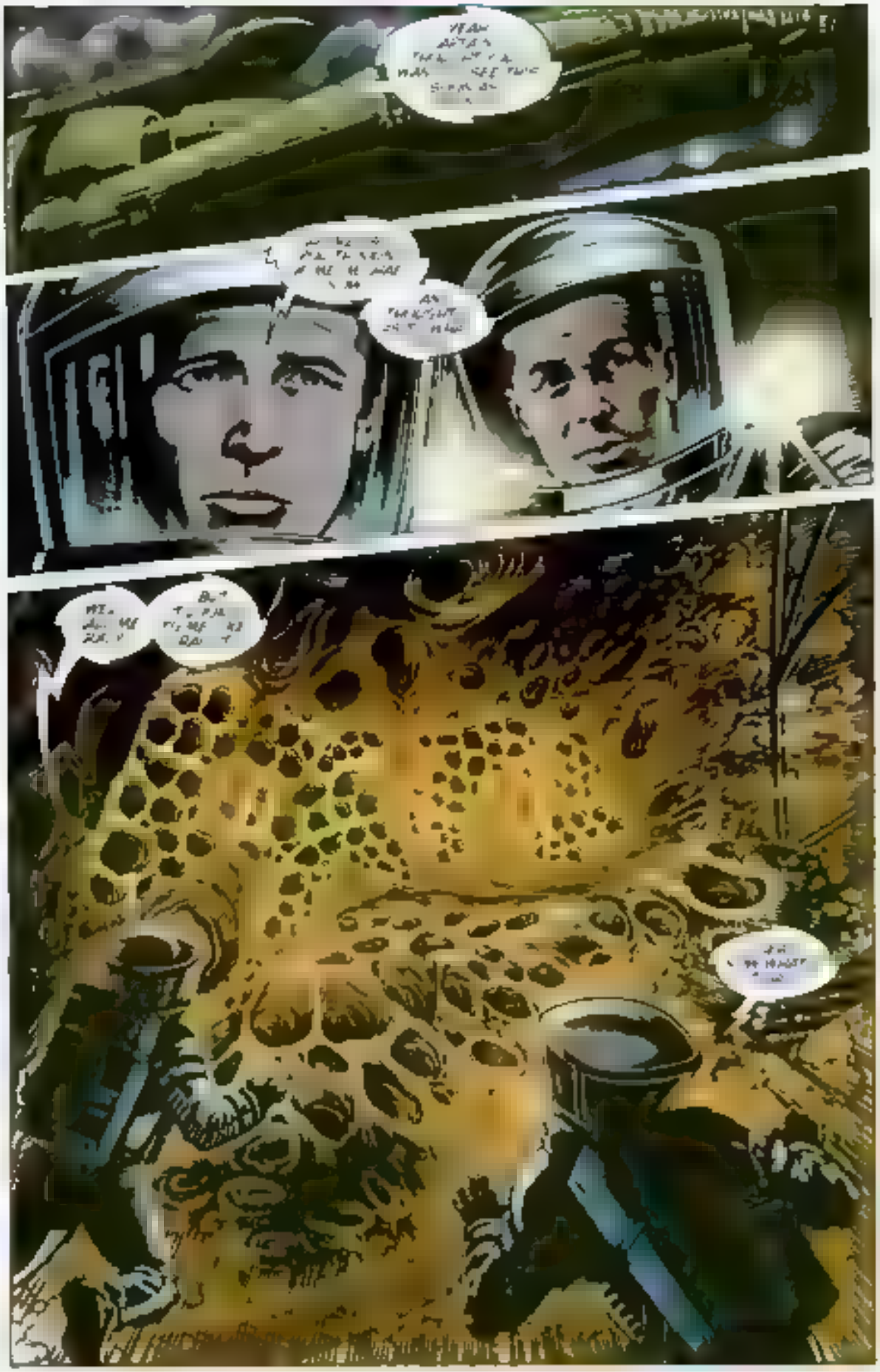
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE YOU CHECKING MY WRIST READOUT?
BECAUSE I WANT TO VERIFY SOMETHING, AND YOU MIGHT BE TOO WOOZY TO...
UH-HUH. THE MIX ON YOUR REBREATHING UNIT IS OFF. YOU'RE GETTING A BUILD-UP OF CARBON DIOXIDE. I THINK I'VE GOT IT ADJUSTED, THOUGH.
OH, TERIFIC. I'M LUCKY I WOKE UP AT ALL.
SO... WHAT DID I MISS?
NOTHING MAJOR SO FAR. NO WORD FROM BABYLON 5 REGARDING RESCUE...
WE'RE STILL SPIRALLING DOWN TOWARDS THAT PLANET. THERE'S NO POWER ANYWHERE IN THE STATION... I JUST CAME BACK FROM SCOUTING AROUND, AND GARIBALDI IS SEEING WHAT HE CAN TURN UP THAT MIGHT HELP...
AND DELENN IS... OTHERWISE INVOLVED.
DELENN... YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING THOSE FOR HOURS. DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A...
...BREAK?
DELENN... WHAT IS IT?
HEARTBREAKING.

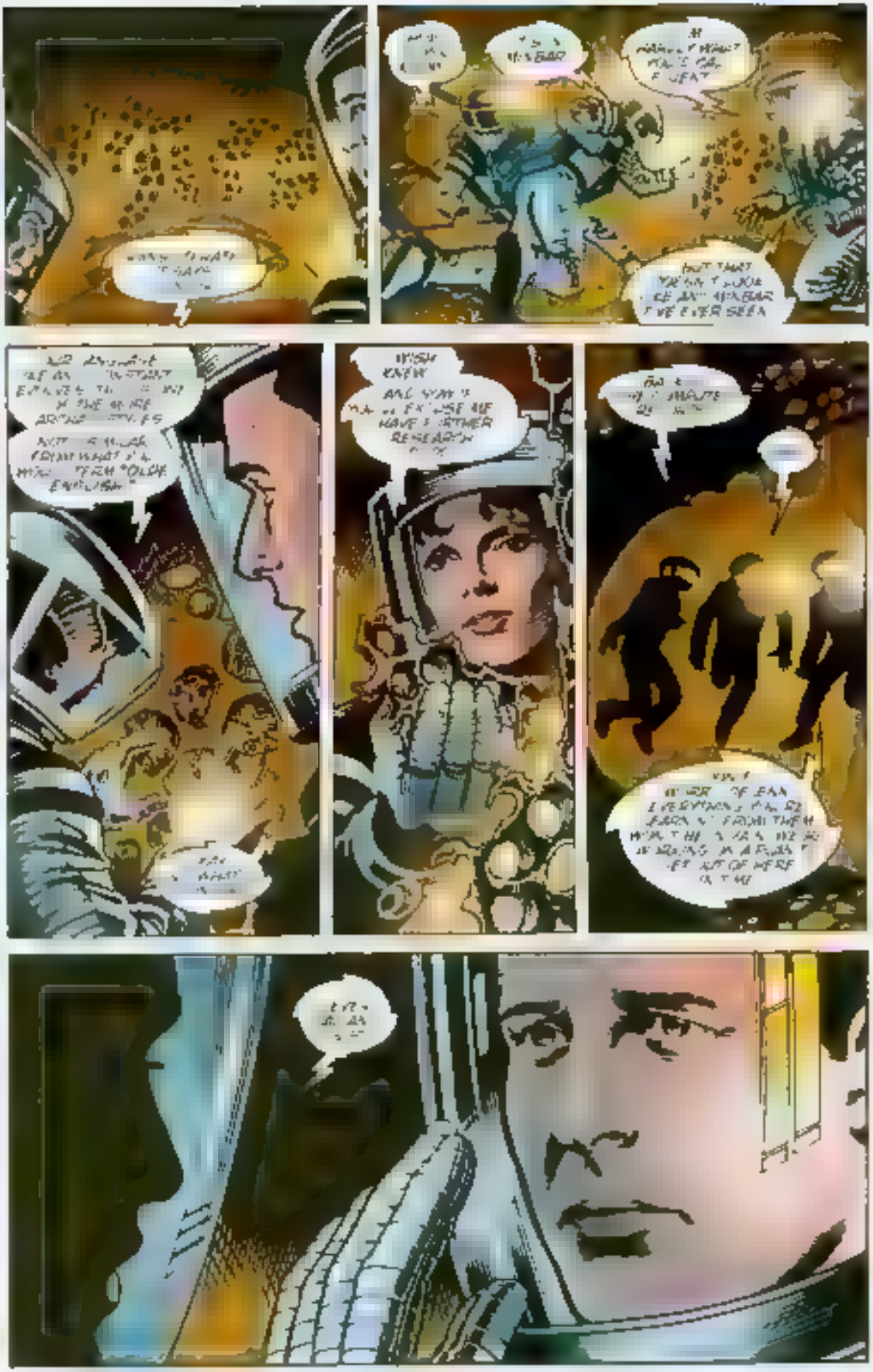
"MY SON DIED TODAY. ZATHRAS, THE FOLLOWER OF VALEN, TOLD ME.
"MY SON, TULAN, WHO FOLLOWED VALEN UPON THE CREATION OF THE ANLA 'SHOK.
"HE SAID HE DIED... BRAVELY.
"AND I IMAGINE THAT I SHOULD TAKE SOLACE... IN THE TEACHINGS... AND REJOICE IN THE LIBERATION OF HIS SOUL AND INEVITABLE SPIRITUAL GROWTH...
"BUT WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES... I CAN...
"I CAN ALMOST HEAR HIM.
"HE WAS A GENTLE SOUL. A SPIRITUAL SOUL. RAISED TO BE A SCHOLAR, NOT A WARRIOR.
"BUT THE WORDS OF VALEN 'INSPIRED' HIM... DROVE HIM TO PLACE THE ANLA 'SHOK ABOVE HIS CASTE...
"...DROVE HIM TO FACE THE ENEMY...

"BRAVELY SO SAID ZATHRAS.
"BUT ZATHRAS SAYS MUCH. HE FILLS THE AIR WITH WORDS.
"AND PERHAPS NOT ALL THE WORDS... ARE TRUE.
"MY GENTLE SON, REMAKING HIMSELF...
"FOR THE SAKE OF VALEN...
"FOR THE NAME OF VALEN. VALEN, IN WHOSE NAME I CRAFTED THE WINDOW, WITH A CARE EQUAL TO THAT WITH WHICH I CRAFTED THE LIFE...
"...THE LIFE OF MY SON."

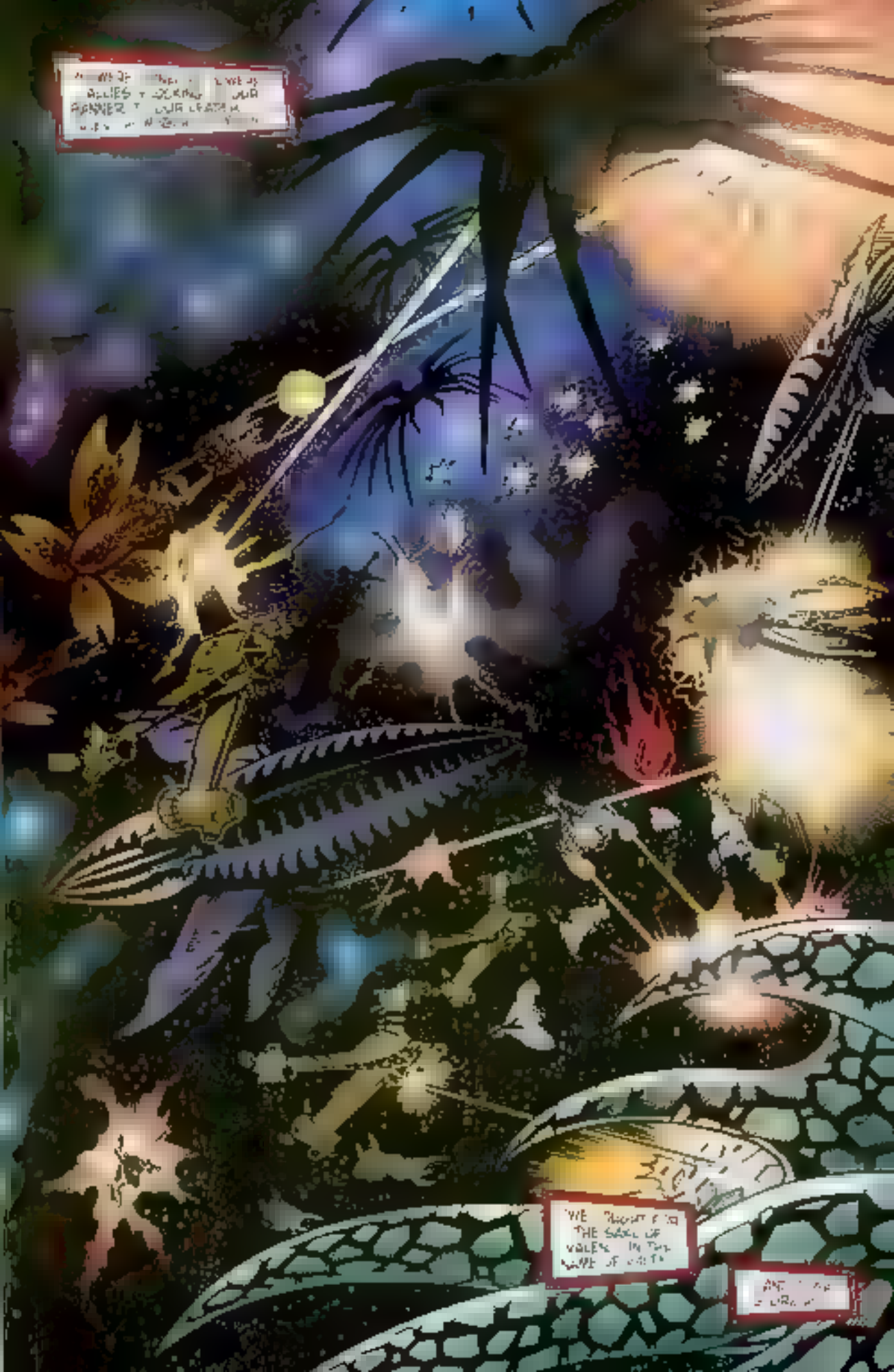
DAMN VALEN! DAMN THEM ALL! AND DAMN ME FOR LETTING IT HAPPEN!



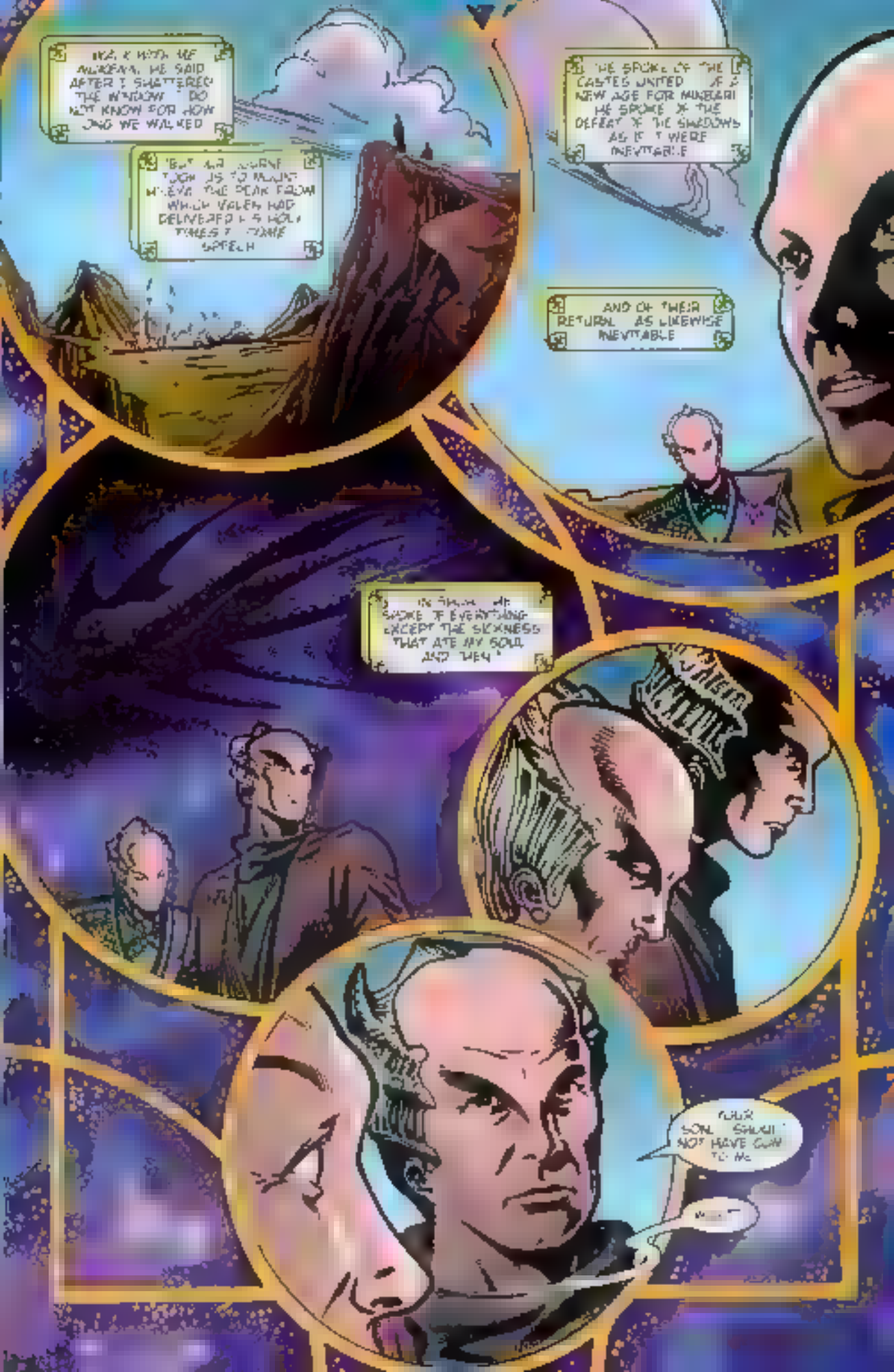




AND THAT PLAN WOULD BE ?
NO CLUE
MY HERO
I DO HAVE A THOUGHT OVER TH
WHERE TO ?

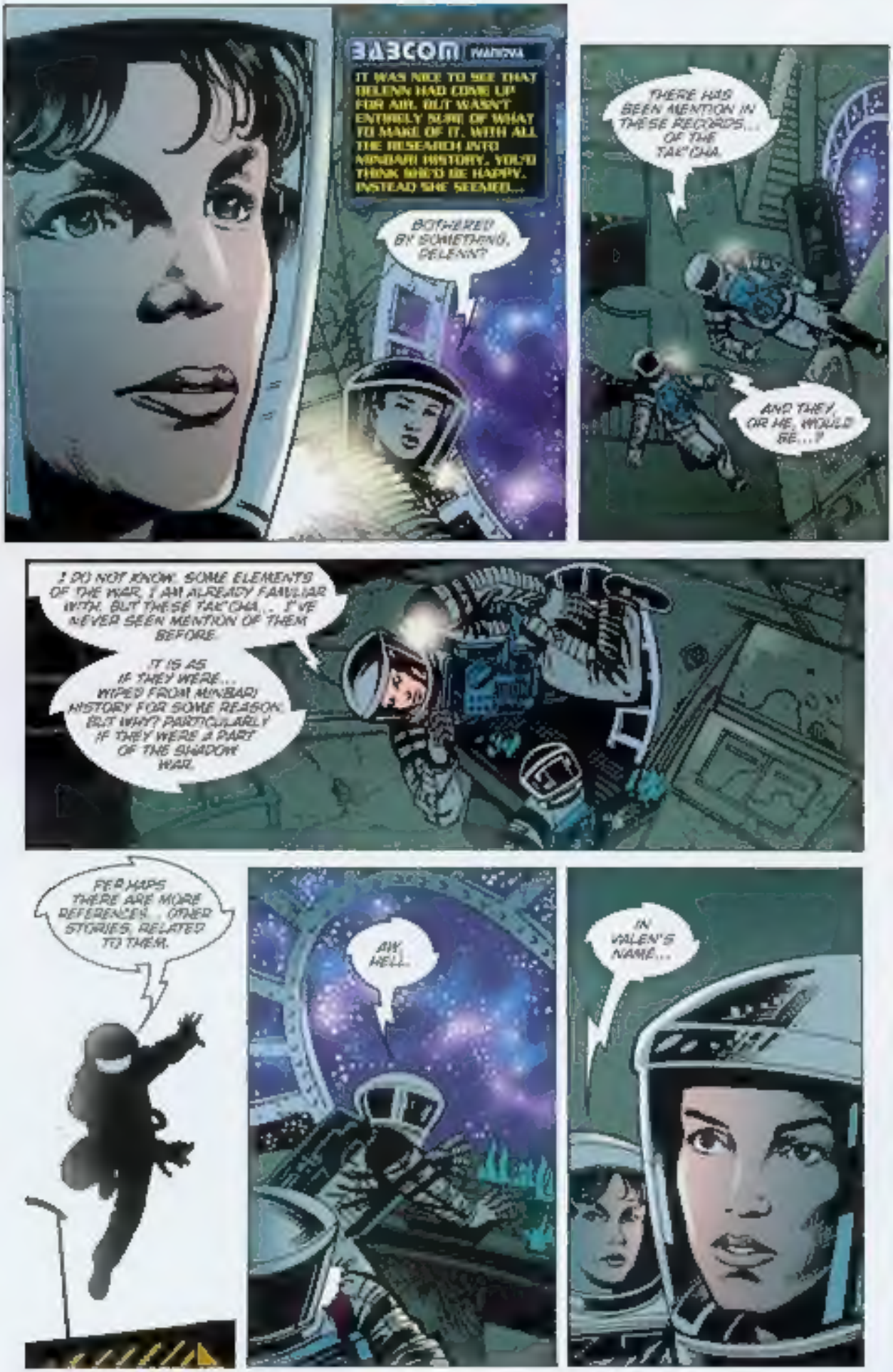


VALEN, BRING YOU NEWS & NEW HONORS FOR YOU!
HE WILL WISH TO HEAR OF THIS. THE CASTES WHICH ONCE STOOD AGAINST HIM DE IRE TO UNITE BEHIN HIM. OUR MOST RECENT VICTORY AN THE EXAMPLE VALEN HAS SET HA GIVEN THEM COURAGE THE HAVE
ZATHRAS SAY... IT CAN WAIT
IF VALEN DO ISTEN T ZATHRAS
YOU CAN ISTEN T ZATHRAS


WALK WITH ME AWHILE, HE SAID AFTER I SHATTERED THE WINDOW. DO NOT KNOW FOR HOW LONG WE WALKED
BUT AN ACCURATE TOUCH IS TO MEASURE WHERE THE PEAK FROM WHICH VALEN HAD DELIVERED HIS HOLIEST WORDS STOOD
HE SPOKE OF THE CASTES UNITED AS A NEW AGE FOR MUNSARI HE SPOKE OF THE DEFEAT OF THE SHADOWS AS IF IT WERE INEVITABLE
AND OF THEIR RETURN AS LIKEWISE INEVITABLE
IN SHORT, HE SPOKE OF EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE SICKNESS THAT ATE MY SOUL AND MEN
YOUR SON SHOULD NOT HAVE COME TO ME
WHAT?

THIS WAS A MUST GENTLE SOUL THE PROBLEM IS THAT WHEN A GENTLE SOUL FACES THE DEPTHS OF DARKNESS AS HE DID IT BECOMES TAINTED DARKENED
THE LOSS OF SUCH A SOUL IS A LOSS TO US ALL
BUT WE BECAME WHAT WE MUST IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE FELT NEEDED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WE TRANSFORMED OURSELVES
I HAVE SOME SMALL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN SUCH MATTERS
YOUR SON SHOULD NOT HAVE COME TO ME BECAUSE HE WAS SOMETHING DELICATE AND INSTEAD HE BECAME HARD AND UNYIELDING THAT IS A GREAT SADNESS
BUT WE CANNOT MUST NOT ALLOW THE SADNESS TO WEIGH US DOWN WE MUST NOT DOUBT WE MUST NOT HESITATE WE MUST NOT LOOK BACK
IF YOU MUST RELEASE YOUR ANGER BE BASE ON ME I WOULD HAVE TURNED YOUR SON AWAY BUT DO NOT DISHONOR HIS COMMITMENT AS I WOULD HAVE YOU DO AS HE WOULD HAVE HAD YOU DO
IF THAT IS INSUFFICIENT HOWEVER THEN LASH OUT AT ME IN MERE GLASS WINDOW THIS TIME THIS WILL BE FAR MORE SATISFYING

"I WANTED HIS STRENGTH, WANTED HIS CONVICTION.
"I ALSO FEARED IT, FOR IN A WAY, HE HAD SEEMED DISTANT, INFLEXIBLE.
"WE DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE... COMPASSION. NOT REALLY. UNDERSTANDING, PERHAPS, BUT NOT COMPASSION.
"HOW COULD HE HAVE THOUGHT THAT AN OFFER OF VIOLENCE WOULD, IN ANY WAY, HELP THE ACHE WITHIN ME?
"AND THEN...
"I SAW IT.
"I NEVER KNEW HOW HE ACCOMPLISHED IT.
"IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT DID NOT MATTER."


BABCOM PHOTOVIA
IT WAS NICE TO SEE THAT DELENN HAD COME UP FOR AIR, BUT WASN'T ENTIRELY SURE OF WHAT TO MAKE OF IT. WITH ALL THE RESEARCH INTO MINBARI HISTORY, YOU'D THINK SHE'D BE HAPPY. INSTEAD SHE SEEMED...
BOTHERED BY SOMETHING, DELENN?
THERE HAS BEEN MENTION IN THESE RECORDS... OF THE TAL'CHA.
AND THEY, OR HE, WOULD BE...?
I DO NOT KNOW. SOME ELEMENTS OF THE WAR, I AM ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH. BUT THESE TAL'CHA... I'VE NEVER SEEN MENTION OF THEM BEFORE.
IT IS AS IF THEY WERE... WIPED FROM MINBARI HISTORY FOR SOME REASON. BUT WHY? PARTICULARLY IF THEY WERE A PART OF THE SHADOW WAR.
PERHAPS THERE ARE MORE REFERENCES... OTHER STORIES RELATED TO THEM.
AW, HELL...
IN VALEN'S NAME...

NOPE. THIS ONE'S DEAD, TOO. MAYBE IF...
VROOO
WHOA! IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS...?
SAY THIS FOR THE MINBARI: THEY BUILT THEIR STUFF TO LAST.
GREAT JOB, MICHAEL! HOW DID YOU DO IT?
PERCUSSIVE MAINTENANCE.
WHAT?
I HIT IT. HIT SOMETHING. AT ANY RATE. STARTED RIGHT UP. DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT. BUT... IT'S A BEGINNING.
CAPTAIN. THIS IS HANOVA!
SUSAN. GREAT NEWS! WE GOT ONE OF THE FIGHTERS UP AND RUNNING!
THAT'S... REAL GOOD, SIR...

NOW IF YOU CAN FIX ANOTHER TWO DOZEN OF SO WITHIN THE NEXT THIRTY SECONDS, WE SHOULD BE IN GREAT SHAPE.